

**ID Patrol™ scans underground Internet trading sites
for your Social Security and Credit Card numbers**

EQUIFAX

GET PROTECTED ▶

Mobile: Cell/PDA | Text Alerts | E-News | RSS | Widgets | Twitter

Find it: Jobs | Cars | **Real Estate** | Apartments | Shopping | Coupons | Classifieds | Celebrations



SEARCH
ALL

All Local News Calendar Jobs More »

SPONSORED BY:



Home News Weather Sports Entertainment Life Communities Voices Videos/Photos Data Buy/Sell Help

What's Hot: MomsLikeMe delawareonline.tv **NEW!** Metromix AllGreenToMe.com **NEW!** Delaware Pets Delaware Gardener Helping Hand



Comment, blog & share photos
Log in | Become a member | Search people



43°F

SPONSORED BY:

Local Weather »

Crime & Court

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

A stitch in time

Baylor inmates find comfort in crocheting sweaters for needy children

BY KATIE ROGERS • THE NEWS JOURNAL • MARCH 11, 2009

Print this page E-mail this article Share ?

As inmate Barbara White crochets Inside Baylor Correctional Institution, each stitch of light blue thread is quick but careful.

ADVERTISEMENT

Exclusive: Colon Detox...

*Scientific study of the
top free cleansing
products on...*

[ColonReview.com](#)

My Teeth Are Now White

*Read the trick,
discovered by a mom,
to turn yellow teeth...*

[CathysTeeth.com](#)

AARP Auto Insurance From...

*Over 50? Save \$363
on Your Auto
Insurance In Minutes
w/...*

[AARP.TheHartford.com](#)

On the table before her is a pile of tiny sweaters of different colors and designs -- a reminder of the work she and her fellow inmates have done and the work that remains.

For the past four years, White has crocheted sweaters for impoverished children all over the world as part of the "Knit for Kids" Sweater Project. Each week, volunteer project coordinator Peg Dulin visits the prison, collects the women's sweaters and doles out new yarn, patterns and hooks. White, who crochets up to 30 hours a week, said the project is a joy.

"I am not trying to minimize what I did," said White, who said she doesn't like to talk about why she is incarcerated. "We are not blaming society for failing us. We are meeting our challenges head on and accepting what brought us here, knowing we made the ultimate choice, and resigned our personal freedom.

"But we are still here, we haven't faded into the woodwork. We still have a need to make a connection with society, and we still give back here in this community," she said.

Baylor inmates have participated in "Knit for Kids" since 2002, and in that time the women have made and shipped 1,061 sweaters to children in need. Dulin, who began to volunteer at the prison after retiring and has mentored many women in the system, said being a part of a charitable initiative such as the Sweater Project helps to boost inmates' confidence.

"I think this helps women build self-esteem and feel better about their stay here because they are doing something productive," Dulin said. "The women in here have a desire to give back and do something for children, because a lot of them are mothers themselves."

Tracey Heiney, who is serving time on vehicular homicide charges, said it is rewarding to know her time is being spent helping others. Although she said her first sweater was somewhat embarrassing, Heiney said she has gotten better over the past year. Each time she makes a sweater, she said she prays it makes the child happy, warm and healthy.



The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS

Barbara White has crocheted 40 sweaters for the "Knit for Kids" Sweater Project, which Peg Dulin (background) brought to the prison in 2002. **(Buy photo)**



The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS

The sweaters that the woman at Baylor crochet are donated to impoverished children around the world. **(Buy photo)**

"This is my way of continuing to pay it forward. Each time one of these sweaters goes out, a little bit of me goes out," Barbara White said. **(Buy photo)**

The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS

PHOTO GALLERIES
Knit Prison

ON THE WEB
Department of Correction
Knit for Kids Sweater Project

One family. One bill.
Add a line starting at \$9.99/mo.


M320 by Samsung®

Get it now →



Mobile: Cell/PDA | Text Alerts | E-News | RSS | Widgets | Twitter

Find it: Jobs | Cars | **Real Estate** | Apartments | Shopping |Coupons | Classifieds | Celebrations




SEARCH
ALL


go

SPONSORED BY:

Home
News
Weather
Sports
Entertainment
Life
Communities
Voices
Videos/Photos
Data
Buy/Sell
Help

What's Hot:
MomsLikeMe
delawareonline.tv **NEW!**
Metromix
AllGreenToMe.com **NEW!**
Delaware Pets
Delaware Gardener
Helping Hand


Comment, blog & share photos
Log in | Become a member | **Search people**


43 °F
Local Weather »

SPONSORED BY:

Crime & Court

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

A stitch in time

Baylor inmates find comfort in crocheting sweaters for needy children

BY KATIE ROGERS • THE NEWS JOURNAL • MARCH 11, 2009

[Read Comments\(13\)](#)
[Recommend](#)
[Print this page](#)
[E-mail this article](#)
[Share](#) 

(2 of 2)

The act of giving is rehabilitative for the women at Baylor, because it gives them a purpose, she said.

ADVERTISEMENT "I took so much when I was out in society with my addiction, so it feels good to give back," Heiney said. "A lot of these women in here are broken and have low self-esteem. I think giving back to other people helps to make you healthy again."

Crocheting was not of interest to inmate Jing Weidow before she came to Baylor. After learning from a friend, she said she now can make one full sweater in a day and finds crocheting relaxing.

Weidow, who is in prison for second-degree murder, said Dulin brought in photos of the grateful children who received the sweaters she helped to make, which serve as a reminder that their work is much appreciated.

"That was the sweetest moment, knowing that you did that, and it made someone so happy," she said. "It's for the kids, and knowing this is important."

The picture Dulin showed of the needy children has stayed with White throughout her time in the Sweater Project. The children looked proud to own the sweaters that she had helped to make, and their pride and thanks was evident on their faces, she said.

"They were just so happy," White said. "They had something brand new for the first time, and that let me know that my love and concern was being appreciated. This is my way of continuing to pay it forward. Each time one of these sweaters goes out, a little bit of me goes out."

Dulin, who began making the sweaters at home before bringing the program to Baylor, said she feels she was inspired by God to lead the inmates in this charitable effort. Her program runs entirely on donations and volunteering and has become a stable part of the system for the women.

"The more I get to know the women, the more I love them," she said. "I would like to change the way the community feels so that someone who is serving time is not judged or condemned. We leave them free to work out their destiny, and we as a community have to support them."



The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS

Barbara White has crocheted 40 sweaters for the "Knit for Kids" Sweater Project, which Peg Dulin (background) brought to the prison in 2002. **(Buy photo)**



The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS

The sweaters that the woman at Baylor crochet are donated to impoverished children around the world. **(Buy photo)**

"This is my way of continuing to pay it forward. Each time one of these sweaters goes out, a little bit of me goes out," Barbara White said. **(Buy photo)**

The News Journal/FRED COMEGYS

PHOTO GALLERIES
[Knit Prison](#)

ON THE WEB
[Department of Correction](#)
[Knit for Kids Sweater Project](#)